

URBAN DISTRICT  
OF  
SOWERBY BRIDGE



MEDICAL OFFICER'S  
ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE  
Health and Sanitary State  
of the District  
FOR THE YEAR 1941

---

KERSHAW & ASHWORTH LTD., HEBDEN BRIDGE



URBAN DISTRICT  
OF  
SOWERBY BRIDGE



MEDICAL OFFICER'S  
ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE  
Health and Sanitary State  
of the District  
FOR THE YEAR 1941

---

KERSHAW & ASHWORTH LTD., HEBDEN BRIDGE



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30121292>

# Urban District of Sowerby Bridge

---

## MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

December 31st, 1941

Councillor J. T. MITCHELL, J.P.

(Chairman of the Council)

„ G. A. ROBERTS, J.P.

(Vice-Chairman of the Council)

„ S. NICHOLL

(Chairman of the Health Committee)

„ C. Arrand

„ T. Broadbent, J.P.

„ A. Butterworth

„ E. Butterworth, C.C.

„ J. E. Crabtree

„ W. Crossfield

„ S. Dawson

„ J. Grayshan

„ T. Haigh

„ M. Harris

„ C. G. Hopkinson

„ R. H. Howarth

„ A. F. Longbottom

„ E. Lumb, J.P.

„ C. W. Maude, J.P.

„ J. Noble

„ G. Sharp

„ A. Sutcliffe

„ G. W. Tucker, J.P.

„ E. Wigglesworth,

„ J. W. Wiley

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Chairman: Mr. Councillor S. NICHOLL

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. A. O. JOLLIE,  
L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S. (Edin.), L.R.F.P.&S. (Glas.)

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

WM. E. FOSTER, M.S.I.A., M.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

M. E. D. WILSON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

---

---

### URBAN DISTRICT STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Area of the District in Acres ...	...	...	...	...	6,966
Population ...	...	...	...	...	...
Rateable Value ...	...	...	...	...	£87,465
Product of a Penny Rate ...	...	...	...	...	£338
Birth Rate, 1941 ...	...	...	...	...	13.3
,,    ,,    1940 ...	...	...	...	...	12.7
,,    ,,    1939 ...	...	...	...	...	12.4
Death Rate, 1941 ...	...	...	...	...	14.7
,,    ,,    1940 ...	...	...	...	...	16.4
,,    ,,    1939 ...	...	...	...	...	14.8
Infantile Mortality Rate ...	...	...	...	...	4.5
Maternal Mortality Rate ...	...	...	...	...	3.3



# REPORT

## of the

# Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending December 31st, 1941

---



---

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health  
Committee of the Urban District of Sowerby Bridge

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health, on the Health and Statistics of your District, together with the work done in the Health Department during the past year, ending 31st December, 1941. This war-time Report has again been curtailed in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

### VITAL STATISTICS

The following figures showing the Births and Deaths are taken from the Returns furnished by the Registrar General, after correction for the Inward and Outward Transfers:—

		M.		F.		Total
Live Births	{ Legitimate .....	137	...	114	...	251
	{ Illegitimate .....	9	...	6	...	15
		146	...	120	...	266

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population      ...      ...      ...      ...      ...      13.3

		M.		F.		Total
Still Births	{ Legitimate .....	3	...	8	...	11
	{ Illegitimate .....	—	...	—	...	—
		3	...	8	...	11

Rate per 1,000 (of live and still births)      ...      ...      41.3

	M.	F.	Total
Deaths ... ..	162	123	285
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... ..			14.7
Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age ...			12
Infantile Mortality (all infants per 1,000 live births)			45
Maternal Mortality ... ..			3.6
Deaths from Puerperal Causes ... ..			Nil.
Deaths from Cancer ... ..			32
Deaths from Tuberculosis ... ..			11
Deaths from Measles ... ..			2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...			3

### STATISTICAL COMPARISON OF OTHER SMALL TOWNS

1941	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mort. Rate
Towns in England & Wales...	16.4	13.0	56
Sowerby Bridge .....	13.3	14.7	45

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Age Period (Years)	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Measles	Whooping Cough	Cerebral-Spinal Fever	Smallpox
0	—	1	—	—	—	—	9	3	—	—
1 — 5	13	7	—	—	—	—	52	43	—	—
5 — 15	22	7	—	—	2	—	20	4	1	—
15 — 25	4	5	—	1	1	—	4	—	—	—
25 — 35	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—
35 — 45	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45 — 55	—	2	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Total Cases Notified	40	23	—	1	10	6	90	50	1	—
Cases Admitted to Hospital	32	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Deaths	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—



## TUBERCULOSIS

Total Cases on Register	PULMONARY				NON-PULMONARY		
	Males	Females	Total		Males	Females	Total
94	39	27	66	...	12	16	28

The usual investigations have been made and disinfections carried out covering the notifiable diseases, in order to control as far as possible the spread of such diseases.

There has not been any prevalence of infectious disease during the year, the cases of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria being about average for the towns of a similar size to Sowerby Bridge.

The tables show a slight increase for Scarlet Fever on the previous year, although there has been a decrease in the cases of Diphtheria, which is most encouraging.

During the year an effort has been made to encourage the Immunisation of all children within the District. This, however, has fallen short of my expectations, but it is hoped to stage a very intensive campaign on this subject in the future.

### General Provision of Health Services

Two Isolation Hospitals are now available for the treatment of the notifiable infectious diseases, these are Northowram Hall, which serves Luddenden Foot and Midgley, and Clifton Isolation Hospital, Brighouse, which covers Sowerby Bridge and the remaining area.

Guaranteed Hospital accommodation only exists at the former Hospital, covering a small part of the district, but it is anticipated that in the very near future such accommodation will be available for the entire district.

Other Diseases such as Pneumonia, etc., are treated at the Halifax General Hospital. Accommodation is also reserved for cases of Smallpox at the Halifax Smallpox Hospital.

Child Welfare Centres are available at Sowerby Bridge and Luddenden Foot. These centres serve the whole of Sowerby Bridge, Luddenden Foot, Midgley, and part of

the Luddenden District of Halifax, together with parts of Mytholmroyd.

The Centres continue their activities with much success.

Tuberculosis dispensaries are held twice weekly at the West Riding County Councils Dispensary in Sowerby Bridge.

Venereal Diseases are treated at the Halifax Royal Infirmary.

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

### **Water Supply**

During the year 26 samples of water were taken from private supplies in the district for bacteriological analysis. Of these, ten were found to be pure, and sixteen polluted, the necessary action was taken respecting the polluted samples.

Extensive works were carried out on the Midgley School and Booth water supplies. In the case of the former supply further storage capacity has been provided in the form of a large brick built covered tank of 750 gallons capacity, thus increasing the supply available to 1,500 gallons.

The provision of the extra storage capacity enabled water from a different source to be collected, thus ensuring both a suitable and sufficient supply to the School.

The water supply at Booth was completely overhauled, all surface water being eliminated from the storage tanks. An entirely new system of distribution was adopted and 2in. mains laid with  $\frac{1}{2}$ in. service pipe to each dwelling.

The water upon Bacteriological Examination is satisfactory, and the supply is sufficient for the needs of the property.

Two samples of water taken from the public supply, Norland, for plumbo-solvency proved upon analysis to be satisfactory.

### **Drainage**

There have been no extensions to the drainage and sewerage systems during the year.

Certain small works, etc., have been carried out, these being subjected to the usual hydraulic test. There has been no substantial change in the sanitary accommodation in the district.

The Outfall Works continue to give satisfaction.

### Public Cleansing

The Cleansing Department continues its activities with success, although the efficiency is being seriously impaired by the loss of certain of the employees to the Forces. The weekly collection in the district is being maintained under great difficulty together with the regular cleansing of other receptacles in the area.

The following table gives details of the number of receptacles cleansed, together with the work completed by each vehicle.

	Ashbins	Ashpits	Pails	Loads	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.
S. & D. 5	141,772			644	2,159	10	—
S. & D. 1	32,044	144		1,462	1,677	16	—
Commer No. 3	42,347	445	4,549	901	1,296	10	—
Commer No. 4	15,187	65	30,869	1,228	1,432	—	—
Totals	231,350	654	35,418	4,235	6,565	16	—

### Salvage Department

The salvage of all materials continues at the tips and destructor head, where the refuse is sorted, and a considerable amount of waste is reclaimed and returned to industry for the War Effort. Each vehicle is also fitted with suitable receptacles for the separate collection of paper, waste food, bones, etc. The following details indicate the successful results obtained by the Department:—



## Materials Reclaimed

				T.	C.	Q.		£	s.	d.
Waste Paper ...	...	...	...	281	9	2	...	1154	1	10
Heavy Metals	...	...	...	18	2	1	...	65	0	2
Tins	...	...	...	71	19	0	...	62	18	0
Bones	...	...	...	3	7	1	...	12	1	11
Kitchen Waste	...	...	...	14	1	0	...	22	14	4
Cullet	...	...	...	43	16	0	...	23	8	4
Rags	...	...	...	7	14	3	...	58	17	6
Non-Ferrous Metals	...	...	...	1	10	0	...	30	7	0
								<hr/>		
								441	19	3
								<hr/>		
Bottles & Jars, 436 Doz.	...	...	...	11	17	4	...	15	17	1
								<hr/>		
								£1445	6	2
								<hr/>		

## General Inspection of the District

Regular inspection of the district has taken place covering all complaints registered at the Department. In all 147 complaints were dealt with mainly under the Public Health Acts. This necessitated 203 inspections being made. At the close of the year 27 complaints remained outstanding.

## Housing Inspections

Although the work in connection with housing has been somewhat reduced, the type of housing in the district is such that it needs almost constant inspection. Owing to the present conditions overcrowding has increased somewhat. Although a certain number of cases of overcrowding have been abated and others temporarily abated, we have had new cases which in total are rather more than the number at the end of last year. Every effort is being made to abate this overcrowding by finding suitable alternative accommodation.

## **Public Health Act**

Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	37
Number of Visits	...	...	...	...	...	52
Works Completed	...	...	...	...	...	33

## **Housing Act (General Repairs)**

Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	51
Number of Visits	...	...	...	...	...	79
Works Completed	...	...	...	...	...	31

## **Housing Act (Overcrowding)**

Number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	70
Number of Visits	...	...	...	...	...	89
Overcrowding at the end of 1940	...	...	...	...	...	36
Overcrowding abated during 1941	...	...	...	...	...	13
Overcrowding at the end of 1941, including 35 new cases						61

## **Smoke Abatement**

With the restrictions imposed by the Ministry of Home Security relative to the production of smoke, the Department has very reluctantly abandoned temporarily the observation of factory chimneys in the area.

## **FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION**

### **Milk Production**

Detailed inspections have been made and specifications prepared in connection with three dairy premises, two of these, together with three outstanding at the year end, were reconditioned, one being completely re-built.

Regular visits and inspections were made at all the farms in the district and the samples of milk obtained indicated that this was generally of a good keeping quality. In the area there are at present 98 milk producers, including 4 producing Accredited Milk.

Every effort is being made to induce many of these producers to go over to the production of a designated milk, either Accredited or Tuberculin Tested, and so generally improve the milk supply of the district.



## Food Inspection

The 36 registered food preparing establishments were inspected, and the 12 outstanding alterations were satisfactorily completed. The standard of cleanliness of the premises and utensils was found to be very satisfactory.

## CENTRALISATION OF SLAUGHTER

Centralised slaughter continues at the Public Abattoir at Sowerby Bridge, which continues to supply the whole of the area, together with the Urban District of Ripponden. During the year the following carcasses were inspected:—

### Meat Inspection

	Bovines	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number of Animals killed ...	813	58	3356	443

#### All Disease except Tuberculosis:

Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	Nil.	1	Nil.
-------------------------------	---	------	---	------

Carcasses of which some part

was condemned ...	38	Nil.	69	2
-------------------	----	------	----	---

Percentage of the number

inspected ...	4.7	Nil.	2.0	.4
---------------	-----	------	-----	----

#### Tuberculosis

Whole carcasses condemned ...	3	—	—	2
-------------------------------	---	---	---	---

Carcasses of which some part

was condemned ...	146	—	—	10
-------------------	-----	---	---	----

Percentage of the number

inspected ...	18.1	—	—	2.7
---------------	------	---	---	-----

Total number of inspections ...	...	...	...	607
---------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

Amount of Meat surrendered as unfit 2 tons 14cwts. 3qrts.,  
26 lbs.

Amount of other food surrendered as unfit, 8cwts. 9lbs.

## Civil Defence

I feel that I must again refer to the Civil Defence duties carried out by the Department. The Services for which the Health Department is responsible, namely, Ambulance Service, Casualty Information Bureau, Decontamination Service and Emergency Mortuary Service are fully organised, and are fully trained should any emergency arise.

The organisation of the Food Decontamination Service has now been completed, and in order that the scheme can be worked efficiently, a joint Area Committee was formed of the following five Authorities:—

The Borough of Todmorden,  
The Urban District of Hebden Royd, Ripponden  
and Sowerby Bridge, and  
The Rural District of Hepton,

to be known as The West Calder Valley Area Joint Food Decontamination Scheme. Two depots have been adapted for the use of the Authorities concerned, these being situate at Luddenden Foot and Mytholmroyd, the former being the main depot for this work. The personnel of this Service have already received their preliminary training in this work.

In conclusion, gentlemen, I should like to record my appreciation of the keen interest shown by the Chairman, Mr. Councillor S. Nicholl, in all the work appertaining to the Health Department, and also to the Health Committee for their unfailing courtesy and valuable assistance rendered at all times.

My appreciation is also due to your Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. E. Foster, and to the technical and clerical staff of the Public Health Department, for their work during the year, and their assistance in preparing this Report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ANDREW OSWALD JOLLIE,

Medical Officer of Health.











